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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No: To Be Assigned  
Applicant: Roland WELTER et al.  
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Customer No: 23280

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 18, 2005

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicant requests that the following Amendments be made in the above-identified matter prior to examination thereof:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.